



The Robertson County Extension Office will be closed on
the following dates:

November 28—29—Thanksgiving

**December 25-January 1—Christmas Holiday
and New Years Day**

January 20—MLK Jr. Day

Robertson County
Agriculture &
Natural Resources
Newsletter
**December 2024/
January 2025**



ROBERTSON COUNTY COUNTRY HAM PROJECT

Cost:

4-H Members - \$70 for 2 hams
Community Members - \$50 per ham
(Limit to 2 per person)

Money and forms are due to the Robertson County Extension Office
by **Friday, December 6th!**

****Robertson County 4-H members and residents ONLY****

TO REGISTER

CALL:

606-724-5796

The Country Ham Project is a great opportunity for families to learn about the process, history, and science of curing hams, as well as other leadership and communication skills.

Cooperative
Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or disability. If you have a disability and need accommodations to participate in this program, please contact your local Extension office for more information. Some accommodations may not be available in languages other than English.
University of Kentucky, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Cooperative Extension, Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

DATE	PROGRAM	LOCATION
DECEMBER 6	DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR COUNTRY HAM PROJECT	ROBERTSON CO. EXT. OFFICE
JANUARY 7	HOMESTEADING EDUCATIONAL SERIES: MEAT CUTTING	MASON CO. EXT. OFFICE
JANUARY 14	HOMESTEADING EDUCATIONAL SERIES: MUSHROOMS	MASON CO. EXT. OFFICE
JANUARY 21	HOMESTEADING EDUCATIONAL SERIES: GARDENING	MASON CO. EXT OFFICE
JANUARY 28	HOMESTEADING EDUCATIONAL SERIES: PRESERVING	MASON CO. EXT OFFICE
FEBURARY 5	AGRONOMY DAY	MASON CO. EXT. OFFICE

HOMESTEADING EDUCATIONAL SERIES

January 7: Meat Cutting
Gardening

January 14: Mushrooms
Preserving

at *Mason County Extension Office*
800 U.S. Hwy 68, Maysville

The meal & registration will begin at 5:30PM with the program beginning promptly at 6:00PM



USE THE QR CODE OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICE TO REGISTER:

BRACKEN COUNTY: (606) 735-2141

FLEMING COUNTY: (606) 845-4641

LEWIS COUNTY: (606) 796-2732

MASON COUNTY: (606) 564-6808

ROBERTSON COUNTY: (606) 724-5796



The 2024-2025 Winter Outlook

Derrick Snyder – National Weather Service, Paducah, KY



La Niña conditions are favored to emerge and persist during the winter months, with a 75% chance of La Niña by November to January. La Niña, which is defined by much cooler ocean temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, will likely affect temperature and precipitation through the winter season. A typical La Nina pattern will bring disturbances through the Ohio Valley more frequently than usual, but whether this means Kentucky will see more snow than usual remains unclear. During the last few winters, the most impactful winter storms have occurred when a sudden, sharp transition from above normal to below normal temperatures is forecast, so that will be one item to pay close attention to during the day-to-day forecast.

The long-range winter outlook slightly favors increased chances for warmer than normal conditions across the Commonwealth. The outlook favors equal chances for above, below, or near normal seasonal precipitation (including all rain, snow, and ice) across much of Kentucky, with the exception of far northern Kentucky, where above normal precipitation is slightly favored. Much of the fall months have been marked by persist drier and warmer than normal conditions across the state, with persistent areas of widespread drought. The winter precipitation outlook suggests some drought improvement is possible through the winter.

Top 10 Reasons to Test Hay

Dr. Jimmy Henning, UK Forage Specialist

Most of you recognize the value of testing hay and make sure your livestock are fed the right hay at the right time. If you don't regularly test hay then the following is a list the top ten reasons you should make the effort to test the hay you produce or the hay you are buying.

1. It saves feed costs. Overwintering costs are the single biggest cost in a cow-calf operation. UK budgets place the hay cost of overwintering a cow at \$150 (2.5 tons at \$60 per ton). Since much of the profit in a cow-calf operation comes from saving money, it makes good sense to know what is in your hay and to not purchase nutrients you don't need.
2. It keeps livestock healthy. By preventing underfeeding, you keep cows in better condition and they can better handle the disease stresses of winter.
3. It tells you about your legume content. The calcium to phosphorous ratio will indicate how much legume is in the hay. If calcium and phosphorous are present in similar amounts (in other words the ratio is 1 to 1), your hay is mostly grass. If it is 2 to 1 or greater, you have a significant amount of legume.
4. You get more calves. In other words, skinny cows don't rebreed. Testing hay and feeding accordingly lowers the risk of cows losing significant body condition over winter.
5. It is a scorecard for your hay program. Hay quality is something you can do something about but only if you get it tested. Comparing current values to historic values for your hay quality will "red flag" production issues before you find out about them in the form of fewer calves or thin cows.
6. It can make you money. A hay test can help leverage higher prices for cash sales. Having a hay test says to potential customers that you are a serious forage producer.
7. It can tell you if your hay got hot. A hay test can tell you if your hay got hot in storage, if you specify the correct assay when you submit the sample. Commonly used acronyms for heat damaged protein are ADICP, ADF-CP, ADIN, HDP and ICP. All of these represent the same thing – the amount of insoluble nitrogen associated with the acid detergent fiber in forage. All forage will have some insoluble nitrogen in the acid detergent fiber, but if it is more than 10% of the total, then you have heat damaged protein and you may need supplement.
8. It helps you use your hay efficiently. You will be able to feed the best hay to the livestock that need the most nutrition.
9. It helps diagnose storage problems. Getting around to all your hay barns and storage locations will give you a chance to make note of any barn leaks, water encroachment from poor drainage, and other problems.
10. It will impress (and maybe shock) your county agent, your ag dealer and even your neighbors.



Each fall, we offer FREE hay sampling through the East Kentucky Hay Contest.

This would be a great opportunity for you to learn more about your hay, without having to pay the testing fee.

Something to keep in mind for next fall (usually around September)

Beef Cattle Management Webinar Series Resumes

Dr. Darrh Bullock, University of Kentucky, Extension Professor

The Beef Cattle Management Webinar Series, formerly known as Reaching Out While Locked In (ROWLI), will resume November 12th and continue the second Tuesday of each month until April 8th. We have an exciting agenda that includes many of the UK Specialists, as well as some nationally recognized experts. The schedule for the series is:

- ⇒ December 10, 2024 – Winter Feeding Strategies to Extend Short Hay Supplies – Lawton Stewart, Professor, University of Georgia
- ⇒ January 14, 2025 – Important Traits for Bull Selection in Kentucky – Matt Spangler, Professor, University of Nebraska
- ⇒ February 11, 2025 – Marketing Opportunities for the Spring – Kenny Burdine, Professor, and Kevin Laurent, Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky
- ⇒ March 11, 2025 – Preparing for a Successful Spring Breeding Season – Les Anderson, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky
- ⇒ April 8, 2025 – Health Update and Internal Parasite Field Study Results – Michelle Arnold, Extension Veterinarian, and Jeff Lehmkuhler, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

If you have registered in the past, you do not need to re-register! If you have never received a Zoom invitation for the series, then please register: send an email to dbullock@uky.edu with the subject of Beef Webinar Series and your name and county in the message. The Zoom invitation will come via email the morning of each presentation. You will continue to get invitations until you send me a request to be removed from the list.

Autumn Sweet Potato Chili

Ingredients:

- 1 (15 ounce) can sweet potatoes (do not drain)
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 (16 ounce) jar salsa
- 2 (15 ounce) cans black beans (do not drain)
- Water to achieve desired consistency
- ½ cup reduced-fat sour cream
- Shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- Dried or fresh chopped cilantro

Directions:

1. Combine sweet potatoes, chili powder and salsa in a large saucepan.
2. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to simmer, and cook until heated through, stirring as needed.
3. Add beans with liquid and cook another 3 minutes to blend flavors.
4. Thin with water if needed. Heat through. 5. Serve with sour cream, cheese and cilantro on the side.

Robertson Conservation—Equipment Rental

⇒ No-till Drill (Hay Buster)

\$65/day, 1-10 acres

\$65 + \$6.50/acre, 11 acres and up

⇒ Lime Spreader

\$50/day

***NEW* \$100 check deposit is required upon pick-up of equipment**

Contact Grant Paynter to schedule: (606)-842-0320

Soil Samples

First 10 Soil Samples are free!

\$10 deposit on soil probe

Hay Samples

For more information call the

Extension Office at (606)-724-5796

****We do free samples for the East KY Hay Contest in the fall. If you could like to be added to the list for sampling, please call the office.**

Robertson County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter December 2024/ January 2025

 Cooperative
Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service
Robertson County
39 E Walnut St.
Mt. Olivet, KY 41064
O: (606)-724-5796
C: (606)-261-0894
samantha.woerner@uky.edu

Here at the Extension Office we would like to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday Season!

This will be the last newsletter of 2024!

Please stay up to date with programs and announcements on our Facebook page—
Robertson County Extension Service

Reminders:

Country Ham Deadline—December 6th

Money must be turned into the Extension Office



Samantha Saunders

Robertson County Agriculture & Natural Resources/
4-H Youth Development Agent

Inside this edition:

- Non-Discrimination Policy
- Beef Cattle Management Webinar Series Resumes
- Autumn Sweet Potato Chili
- Equipment Rates & Soil Testing
- Top 10 Reasons to Test Hay
- Homesteading Educational Series
- The 2024-2025 Winter Outlook
- 2025 Country Ham Project
- Important Dates
- Office Closure Dates

Non-discrimination Policy

The Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with respect to education and employment and authorization to provide research, education information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and other related matter should be directed to

Equal Opportunity Office, Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment,
University of Kentucky, Room S-105, Agriculture Science Building, North Lexington, Kentucky 40546,

the UK Office of Equal Opportunity, 13 Main Building,
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0032 or

US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights,
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.
University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.